

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 086055

O P 020945Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5754

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 SEOUL 1526

EXDIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS CINCPAC FOR AMBASSADOR HABIB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UNGA KS KN

SUBJECT: KOREA AT 31ST UNGA: CONSULTATIONS

REF: STATE 049328 (DTG 282239Z FEB 76)

1. AT THIRD ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER PARK TONG-JIN ON KOREAN ISSUE AT 31ST UNGA, MARCH 2, AMBASSADOR OUTLINED APPROACH TO CORE GROUP MEETING CONTAINED REFTEL. AFTER NOTING AT OUTSET THAT WE HAD GIVEN CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO ROKS STRONG VIEWS ON MEETING, AMBASSADOR SAID WE CONTINUED TO SEE IMPORTANCE RESISTING NORTH KOREAN EFFORTS 31ST UNGA, THAT DEFEATIST APPROACH AT CORE MEETING COULD BE SEIZED UPON BY OTHERS AS OPPORTUNITY TO AVOID ENGAGING IN UN FIGHT, AND THAT KEY DIFFERENCE REMAINING BETWEEN US WAS THAT ROK APPEARED TO HAVE DECIDED COURSE OF ACTION WHICH WE THOUGHT PREMATURE AND WHICH COULD POSSIBLY BE HARMFUL. ACCORDINGLY U.S. SIDE STILL WISHED TO WAIT AND SEE UNTIL MAY-JUNE PERIOD WHICH OPTAION MOST VIABLE ON BASIS DEVELOPING ASSESSMENT. IN THIS CONTEXT AFTER LAYING OUT GOALS AND OPTIONS IN OBJECTIVE FASHION, IT WOULD BE AGREEABLE TO US FOR ROKS TO EXPRESS THEIR OWN VIEWS REGARDING ASSESSMENT AND OPTIONAL COURSES IF ASKED BY OTHER COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES. AMBASSADOR MADE CLEAR OUR

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DESIRE THAT ROKS NOT GIVE IMPRESSION IN CORE MEETING THEIR PRE-

FERRED APPROACH WAS ONLY ONE TO BE CONSIDERED. AMBASSADOR ALSO PRESSED FOR MEETING BE HELD MARCH 9 AND OUTLINED PROPOSED AGENDA PARA 3, REFTEL.

2. IN RESPONSE FONMIN PARK READILY ACCEPTED THIS BASIC APPROACH TO CORE MEETING AS WELL AS PROPOSED AGENDA AND AGREED TO INVITE CORE GROUP MEMBERS TO MEETING IN NEW YORK ON MARCH 9. IN LATTER CONNECTION FONMIN MADE POINT THAT BECAUSE OF LATE NOTICE DATE WOULD HAVE TO BE PROVISIONAL ON ACCEPTANCE BY OTHER CORE MEMBERS. HE ALSO SAID IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO HAVE MEETINGS EXTENDED TO MARCH 10. ACKNOWLEDGING BOTH POINTS AMBASSADOR INDICATED HE WOULD REPORT THEM TO WASHINGTON.

3. PARK THEN WENT ON TO ELABORATE ON ROK APPROACH TO CORE MEETING AND TO 31ST UNGA IN GENERAL. HE EMPHASIZED ROKG IS "FLEXIBLE" ON TACTICS. WHILE ROKG REPS WOULD OUTLINE OWN ASSESSMENT OF UNGA SITUATION AS THEY FORESAW IT THEY WOULD NOT POINT UP POSSIBLE DIFFERENCE WITH U.S. OR OTHER ASSESSMENTS. THEY PLANNED TO INDICATE THAT THEY HOPED TO FIND NEW CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH TO UN ISSUE THIS YEAR, BUT THAT THEIR MINDS WERE OPEN WITH REGARD TO PRECISE TACTICS AND WOULD BE DEPENDENT ON CONSULTATIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS BETWEEN NOW AND MAY-JUNE.

4. FONMIN MADE STRONG POINT OF FACT THAT PRESIDENT PARK PERSONALLY BELIEVED AT THIS JUNCTURE THAT ROK SHOULD AVOID UNPRODUCTIVE, CONFRONTATIONAL UN DEBATE IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. INSTEAD PRESIDENT WISHED ROKG ADOPT MORE POSITIVE CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH THIS YEAR WHICH WOULD CONCENTRATE ON GETTING NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE RESUMED AND REITERATE CALL IN LAST YEAR'S FRIENDLY UN RESOLUTION FOR MEETING OF PARTIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED IN ARMISTICE. UNDERLYING PRESIDENT PARK'S VIEW WAS DISPLEASURE WITH UNPREDICTABLE NATURE OF SUCH COUNTRIES AS THOSE IN AFRICA ON WHOSE VOTES IT IMPOSSIBLE TO BASE A POLICY. PARK SAID PRESIDENT PARK WAS ADAMANT ABOUT NOT ALLOWING KOREA TO BECOME POLITICAL FOOTBALL
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IN UN DEPENDENT UPON SUCH COUNTRIES AS IT WAS LAST YEAR.

5. AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, ROKS REMAINED OPEN-MINDED ABOUT TACTICS. PARK SAID HE PERSONALLY AGREED THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY BE BEST TO HAVE AN ALTERNATIVE FRIENDLY DRAFT RESOLUTION OF SOME KIND IN ORDER TO MOBILIZE FRIENDLY FORCES AND TO ELICIT NEUTRAL

NATION MOVES WHICH MIGHT BE HELPFUL, AND HE IMPLIED PRIVATELY TO AMBASSADOR HE WAS WORKING TO MOVE PRESIDENT IN THIS DIRECTION. PARK SPECIFICALLY EMPHASIZED POSSIBILITY INTRODUCING BRIEFER, MORE GENERAL FRIENDLY RESOLUTION URGING ONLY NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE AND MEETING OF PARTIES CONCERNED. IF IN LAST ANALYSIS ROK CURRENT APPROACH PROVED UNREALISTIC ROKG WOULD BE OBLIGED ALONG WITH OTHERS TO ADOPT ALTERNATIVE. CERTAINLY, AS FAR AS TACTICAL MEANS OF REACHING OPTIMAL RESULT IN 31ST UNGA WERE CONCERNED, ROKG REMAINED FLEXIBLE.

6. FONMIN THEN WENT ON TO ANTICIPATE NEED AS HE SAW IT FOR EXPRESSING ROK VIEWS PUBLICLY AT SOME POINT IN NEAR FUTURE IN RESPONSE PRESS QUERIES. HE WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO SAY, HE SAID, THAT ROKG SAW NO POINT IN REPEATING LAST YEAR'S SCENARIO AND PREFERRED TO SEEK NEW CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH TO KOREAN SITUATION. STATEMENT WOULD SUGGEST THAT THIS BE BASED ON RESUMPTION OF NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE AND CONVENING OF FOUR-POWER OR PARTIES CONCERNED CONFERENCE. PROPOSED STATEMENT, HOWEVER, WOULD AT THIS POINT LEAVE OPEN QUESTION OF TACTICAL APPROACH ROKS AND FRIENDLY SUPPORTERS MIGHT TAKE TO 31ST UNGA ITSELF. STATEMENT SHOULD APPEAL TO MANY NEUTRAL MEMBERS OF UN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEE.

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 SEOUL 1526

EXDIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS CINCPAC FOR AMBASSADOR HABIB

WHO WERE TIRED OF STERILE KOREAN DEBATE SAID PARK. FURTHER,

STRONG ARGUMENT THAT COULD BE MADE IN BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE
WAS THAT PAST FRIENDLY RESOLUTIONS WHICH HAD BEEN PASSED BY
UNGA OUGHT TO BE GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO WORK AND THAT UNTIL THESE
FORMULAS TESTED IT WAS UNNECESSARY FOR UNGA TO RECONSIDER KOREAN
QUESTION AS IN PAST. AFTER OUTLINING STATEMENT, PARK ASKED

(#)

DEPARTMENT WOULD BE
ABLE TO FOLLOW UP WITH SUPPORTIVE STATEMENT OF
ITS OWN.

7. IN RESPONSE TO ABOVE, AMBASSADOR ACKNOWLEDGED THAT KOREAN
APPROACH MADE LOGICAL SENSE. WE STILL CONTINUED TO BELIEVE,
HOWEVER, THAT IT WILL BE MOST DIFFICULT TO AVOID SCENARIO SIMILAR
TO LAST YEAR'S, AS MUCH AS WE WOULD LIKE TO DO SO, WITHOUT
LEAVING FIELD TO DPRK AND HOSTILE FORCES TO EVENTUAL DETRIMENT
OF ROK. WE WISHED AT PRESENT KEEP OPEN MIND TO CONSIDERATION
ALTERNATIVES, INCLUDING INTRODUCTION OF BRIEFER MORE GENERAL
FRIENDLY RESOLUTION, MARSHALLING OF FORCES BEHIND ACCEPTABLE
THIRD COUNTRY RESOLUTION, AS WELL AS OTHER TACTICAL ALTERNATIVES
WHICH HAVE BEEN SUGGESTED. (PARK EXPRESSED GREAT PLEASURE AT
THIS INDICATION OF FLEXIBILITY.) AS REGARDS POSSIBLE PUBLIC
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STATEMENT AMBASSADOR SAID HE WOULD REFER THIS QUESTION TO
WASHINGTON.

8. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT COMMENTS ON LINE FONMIN PROPOSES
TO TAKE PUBLICLY.
SNEIDER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CINCPAC.
NOTE #2: (#) OMISSION. CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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